



**Pro-Life Waco
2021
Year in Review**
www.prolifewaco.com

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Significance of the battle for life in Waco

It is a tremendous burden to realize that **Waco is one of the eight abortion cities in Texas.** Six are the big cities of Texas. The only mid-size cities are McAllen and Waco. With the impact of the Texas Heartbeat Act, the Waco pro-life community is working and praying hard to remove Waco from this map.

The year began with a "first in Texas" Roe Day newspaper ad with hundreds of household signatures. Near the end of the year another "first in Texas" was a full-page ad in October 17 created by Christian pastors in Greater Waco. In between were thousands of hours of dedicated life defender outreach. Here are highlights of the ministry of Pro-Life Waco in 2021, as we look forward to serving faithfully in coming year.

Doug Johnson highlights Second Sunday Gathering

In two centuries, PLW has delivered monthly Second Sunday Pro-Life Gathering at the parish hall of St. Mary's Church. A great Italian meal during the noon hour and an engaging program for mobilization from 1-2 PM.

The highpoint in 2021 was a visit from 10 friends with the last name of Johnson. Our featured speaker was Doug Johnson. He brought along his wife Abby and their eight lovely and energetic children. Doug was interviewed for 45-minutes by the charming and skilled Ann Harder--a retired TV news anchor. This interview was wide-ranging, humorous, and also surprising. The interview is available for you to watch today: youtu.be/9hfTEkEY32M



Roe Day 2021 Signature Ad

REMEMBERING LIVES LOST & HEARTS BROKEN

The tragic Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision was handed down on 22nd day of January, 1973

On this day 48 years ago, the Supreme Court launched America down a dreadful path to abortion on demand. Since that day in 1973, over 60 million babies have died in the U. S. as justifications expanded from "hard cases" to abortion at any time and for any reason.

Abortions at Waco began in 1994. The lives of over 20,000 babies in the womb have been extinguished at Planned Parenthood Waco facilities.

The death of innocent pre-born babies is a leading social justice issue for the 21st century. The demise of those who cannot defend themselves, is compounded by the spiritual, physical, and psychological damage to moms, dads, grandparents, friends, and to our moral fabric.

The pain, regret, and tears ripple through the decades and generations of personal and family life.

Whoever well-meaning a little child like this in my name welcomes Me. Matthew 18:5

Want to be in this ad next year? Send an email to prolifewaco@gmail.com

Keep informed about local life-defender outreach with our weekly email newsletter. Send the message "subscribe" to prolifewaco@gmail.com

Signatures: A long list of names including: Alan Abbott, James Adams, Linda Adams, Thomas A. Lee, etc.

There has never been a "signature" newspaper ad like this in Texas. In October of 2020, Pro-Life Waco contracted for a full-page ad in the *Waco Tribune-Herald* for January 22, 2021. The ad featured a call for the reversal of the **Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision**. PLW had the goal of 600 names on the ad. We asked for a donation of \$5 to \$50 for each individual or family on the ad. It was hard. We reached the goal! The ad made a strong proclamation to our Central Texas neighbors and gave our pro-life friends one more way to participate in the battle against abortion. You can view the proclamation and ad: <https://bit.ly/3rTeZOE>



Sidewalk counseling

Abortion days in Waco are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of alternating weeks. The energetic director of sidewalk counseling in Waco is Ellen Staniszewski. Pro-Life Waco partners with Care Net Pregnancy Center helping pregnant moms. CareNet is fully open to serve moms at its clinic directly across the street from Planned Parenthood.

Sidewalk counseling training (lasting five hours) was delivered on three occasions. We use print and video materials from Sidewalk Advocates for Life. In the months ahead over a hundred of toddlers will be at their mothers' knees because of babies saved.



Crawford is a Sanctuary City

For March Second Sunday Gathering, PLW hosted the creator of the "Sanctuary Cities" movement, Mark Lee Dickson. Mark has been the most innovative grassroots activist in the last decade. We brought Mark to Waco hoping a Sanctuary City would blossom in Central Texas. This happened on August 10 when the rather famous city of Crawford adopted a Sanctuary City ordinance. Crawford became the 33rd sanctuary city in Texas since 2019. Thank you, Dennis Daniel of St. Louis Catholic Church, and Rev. Ben Faus of First Baptist Church of Crawford for your leadership. Read a Waco Trib article on Crawford: <https://bit.ly/3CO0D7q>

Pro-Life Waco is a 501c3 non-profit.
Contributions are tax deductible.
Your financial support is vital for 2022
Donations go directly to pro-life initiatives. PLW leaders do not receive compensation.
You can donate online at prolifewaco.com.
Click the red "Support Us" button
Or send a check to:
PLW, 4200 Grim Ave. Waco TX 76710

PLW media coverage. Washington, yes. Waco, No.

Media coverage for Pro-Life Waco was curious in 2021. Many of our events were news worthy. However, local TV and the newspaper showed virtually no interest.

There was interest in Waco pro-life outreach from the *Washington Post* and international publications. The first was in June with a visit from the U. S. correspondent for German Public Radio. She produced a 10-minute documentary on the Waco battle against abortion and Planned Parenthood,

The Texas Heartbeat Act brought a surge of interest. This included a French magazine, a French public radio station and Austrian Public Television.

Most recently, the *Washington Post* used an interview with PLW Director John Pisciotta to open and close a major news story about the Texas Heartbeat Act controversy. You can read the story and see great photos of PLW:

<https://bit.ly/3BIMAhg>

John Pisciotta was interviewed on Catholic radio stations. You may like the interview for "Hometown Heroes" on the Armor of God Radio in Copperas Cove, Texas. <https://bit.ly/3GIK2UF>

This provides a good overview of the history, impact, and strategies of Pro-Life Waco.

Rise UP in Waco

To elevate the challenge to the Planned Parenthood Regional Abortion Center, **Rise UP in Waco** began in February. We hold strong, G-rated signs at the extensive public right-of-way along HWY 6. Some walk around Planned Parenthood seven times for a Jericho March.



The outreach is 8 to 10 AM, with a "Fiesta del Ranchito" taco break at 9 AM. **Rise UP in Waco** is delivered on the 4th Saturday of each month. We aspire to have 77 or more foot soldiers standing for life on the 4th Saturdays of 2022.

Fly the Flag to Honor Babies Aborted



This is the 3rd of each month because abortion resumed in Waco on March 3, 2021. August 3 was the launch of this outreach. Households and churches fly the American flag on the 3rd of each month -- half-staff if possible.



Visual displays: three sizes, many messages for life

Outdoor displays play a big part in the public square outreach of Pro-Life Waco. PLW displays a dozen billboards and hundreds of yard signs at Central Texas homes and churches. The distribution point for FREE yard signs is the front porch of PLW (John Pisciotta) at 4200 Grim Avenue in Waco. PLW has full-size billboards such as the photo above (off Franklin Avenue). Junior billboards (7'x11') help spread our message broadly—in Spanish as well as English.



And then "small is so beautiful." PLW yard signs dot the city with the proclamation that this family or this church stands in solidarity with preborn babies and moms. Check out the five yard signs currently available free of charge:

<https://bit.ly/3H6xeaz>

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Waco was one of 214 cities collaborating in National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children in Waco on September 18. The venue was Rachel's Park Memorial, with its Tomb of the Unknown Baby, 3,000 small white crosses, and the Wall of Remembrance. Our lead speaker was Rev. Clenard Childress of Montclair, New Jersey. Pastor Childress



is a dynamic pro-life leader in the public square and at the pulpit of New Calvary Baptist Church. The title of his amazing presentation was: "Is There Not a Cause?" (1 Samuel 17:29). You can view and be inspired by this prophetic sermon at youtu.be/Hqp9qRpQ-y4. Over 70 attended the event, which also included presentations from local pro-life ministry leaders. Then, we enjoyed breakfast tacos and fellowship.

Counter Rally to Abortion Supporters on October 2

This was a top-ten day in the history of Pro-Life Waco. Waco was one of 600+ American cities with a pro-abortion rally on Oct. 2.

The disturbing name for their event was **Rally for Abortion Justice**. Abortion supporters at Indian Spring Park were about 150. AND over 70 life defenders joined in with signs to defend precious babies. Carolyn the pro-life billboard truck brought dozens of signs for our foot soldiers running to battle. On this day, life defenders truly made Waco a "City on a Hill."



PLW's John Pisciotta promoted counter-rallies across Texas and America through email and Facebook groups. The pro-life responses in Temple and Copperas Cove were amazing.

Battle in the Waco Trib

2021 was a very active years for Pro-Life Waco on the Opinion Page of the *Waco Tribune-Herald*. (2004, the year of PLW's Girl Scout Cookie boycott, was the top year. See <https://bit.ly/3bSc0ii>) The Trib printed several full editorials critical of the pro-life movement and thinking. The shots were fired by a prominent pastor, a retired Baylor professor, and a leftist lawyer. The Pro-Life Waco allies in the community responded vigorously defending preborn life and the true interests of pregnant moms. You can see the offending editorials and our responses:

<https://bit.ly/3wqxZGA>

The letters on this PDF are less than half of all the pro-life letters in the Waco Trib in 2021

Ad in Waco Trib from pastors

The "Christian" defense of abortion in the Trib, motivated a full-page ad created and affirmed by a broad coalition of Christian pastors. Over 80 Waco-area pastors "signed" the proclamation of nine pro-life principles. This was all the work of pastors. You can see the full-page ad and read the proclamation: <https://bit.ly/3EW1KC9> If your pastor is on the ad, say THANK YOU.

PLW extends with Facebook

The focus of Pro-Life Waco is local. PLW models and encourages local action worldwide. In 2014, John Pisciotta create a Facebook group named **Hometown Pro-life Action**. This small mustard seed has grown to over 14,000 members in over 90 countries.

Thank you to all who have

- prayed • worked • and financially supported the public-square outreach in Waco in 2021.

Grassroots mobilization is critical for the battle. We need your support for 2022!

Donate online: www.prolifewaco.com

Donate by mail: 4200 Grim Ave Waco TX 76710